REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 9-13, 16-19, 21, 25, 26, 28, 31, and 32 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 19, 25, 26, 31, and 32 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 9-13, 15-19, 21, 24-26, 28, and 30-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being anticipated by U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0210252 to Ludtke et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,198 to Washino.

In this amendment, the features of dependent claim 15 have been added to independent claim 1. Similarly, the features of dependent claim 24 have been included in claim 19, the features of dependent claim 30 have been added to independent claim 26, and the features of dependent claim 33 have been added to independent claim 32. Claims 15, 24, 30, and 33 are cancelled.

Independent claim 1, now recites in part as follows:

> "...wherein said information pertaining to said functional block stored within said memory includes virtual plug information of said functional block..." (Emphasis Added)

In explaining the above rejection, the Examiner appears to rely on paragraph [0040] of Ludtke to disclose to above-recited feature, see lines 10-13, page 4 of the most recent Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the portion of Ludtke as applied by the Examiner (hereinafter "Ludtke") does not teach or suggest that virtual plug information is stored in memory. For example, a virtual plug may be a logical connection through which two devices can establish data communication. Through the use of virtual plugs, a first device can simultaneously communicate with a number of devices through the use of the same physical connection between the first device and a serial bus. The first device has a memory which is accessible by an external apparatus, and by storing virtual plug information in said memory, the external apparatus can readily obtain the logical connection state of a termination device of the first device. Ludtke appears to disclose the use of an IEEE 1394-1995 interface circuit through which data and commands are sent, but Ludtke does not appear to disclose the storage of virtual plug information in memory. Therefore, independent claim 1 is believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Ludtke and Washino.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to claim 1, amended independent claims 19, 26, and 32 are believed to be distinguishable from Ludtke.

Claims 3, 6, 9-13, 16-18, 21, 25, 28, and 31 depend from one of claims 1, 19, 26, and 32 and, due to such dependency, are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Ludtke and Washino for at least the reasons previously described.

Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1, 3, 6, 9-13, 15-19, 21, 24-26, 28, and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

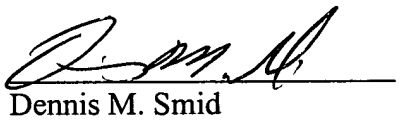
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner

specifically indicate the portion or portions of the reference or references providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: 

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